



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Aibreán / April
2022



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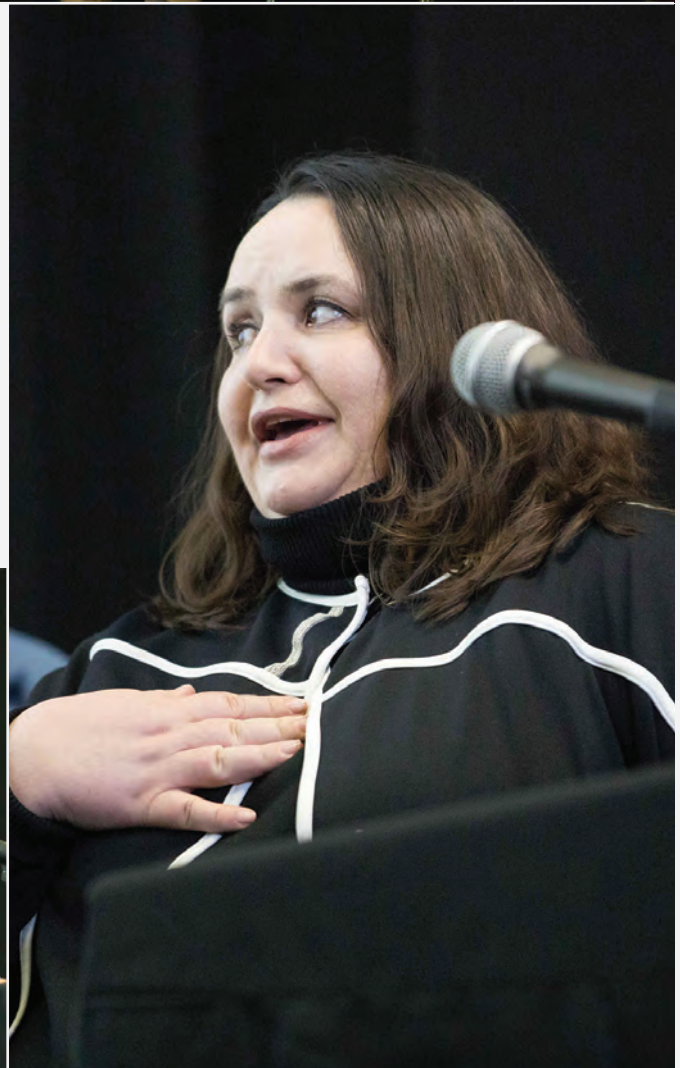
Ukrainian Ambassador visits County Clare



Larysa Gerasko, the Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland, was in Clare on Saturday, 26th March, where she met with many of the displaced Ukrainian people who have been living in Clare for the past number of weeks.

Ambassador Gerasko met with Clare elected representatives and was updated on the countywide response by the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, and Council Chief Executive, Pat Dowling.

Pictured above (l-r) are Senator Timmy Dooley; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Senator Martin Conway; Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Larysa Gerasko, Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland; and Senator Róisín Garvey.



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES



Clockwise from top left: Pictured leading the Procession to Wreath Laying at the Covid-19 Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection at Áras Contae an Chláir, Ennis, Co. Clare, on Sunday, 20th March, was Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Memorial outside Áras Contae an Chláir; Garda Superintendent John Ryan; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; and Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare.

Council hosts Covid-19 Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection

Clare County Council hosted a Covid-19 Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection at Áras Contae an Chláir on Sunday, 20th March, in collaboration with the HSE and An Garda Síochána.

This ceremony was part of a nationwide event commemorating those who died and those who were bereaved during the Covid-19 pandemic. In his opening welcome Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, remembered those who died during the pandemic and acknowledged the individuals who cared for the dying and for their families, and those who gave crucial supports to vulnerable members of the community.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Maria

Bridgeman, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare and John Ryan, Superintendent, An Garda Síochána, paid tribute to and formally acknowledged the contributions made by all of the people in our communities and the dedication, commitment and resilience shown by our front line workers during the pandemic.

Prayers and reflections were read by Fr Tom Ryan, Reverend Kevin O'Brien, Maurice Harvey of Clare Older People's Council and Clare Youth Theatre also performed a poem. Music was provided by Music Generation harpists and members of the Council choir.

The ceremony concluded with a formal wreath laying by Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, at a memorial tree outside Áras Contae an Chláir.

Clare County Council Ethics Register

In accordance with section 171 of the Local Government Act 2001 (the Act), elected members, relevant employees and non-councillor members of local committees in this local authority, were obliged to prepare and furnish to the Ethics Registrar an Annual Declaration form containing particulars of their “dearable interests” within the meaning of section 175 of the Act. Details had to be returned online by 28th February, 2022. A total of 235 records were furnished to the Ethics Registrar. Under Section 172 of the 2001 Act, the Ethics Registrar has maintained a Public Register containing, among other information, the particulars contained in the Annual Declarations.

Freedom of Information & Data Protection

2022 Year to date Statistics to 30/03/2022

- 27 Freedom of Information Requests
- 2 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 0 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- 5 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 4 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request e.g. Gardai

Communications

The Communications Office communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of issues of local and national interest. Media releases issued during the month of March included:

- ‘Coming Together’ to celebrate St Patrick’s Day in Ennis
- Meeting Examines Future Development of Destination Burren
- Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022 – Amuigh faoin Aer – the Great Outdoors
- Closing date nears for submissions to Draft County Development Plan.

Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the

Retirement of Local Government Auditor



Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, and Tommy O'Callaghan, who has retired as Local Government Auditor for Clare.

Tommy O'Callaghan started his career in 1980 as a trainee auditor but quickly moved up the ranks. He initially was based in the Southern region within the audit service and then moved to Donegal to take up the position as Local Government auditor. He finally came to Clare where he undertook the 2005 audit and has remained since. He also undertook the Kerry audit for the last number of years. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him well in his retirement. We would also like to welcome Jo-Anne Greene who will replace Tommy as the Local Government Auditor for Clare.

public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In March, the Communications Office:

- Posted 45 times on Facebook, with total followers now 16,701, with 14,786 page likes. Posts earned 167,674 impressions with 10,305 engagements.
- Posted 44 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,620. Tweets earned 32,132 impressions and 1,435 engagements.
- Posted 12 times on Instagram with followers now 2,436.

Print and Graphic Design

The print and graphic design service continues to provide services including layout and production of posters and signage, forms, certificates and booklets

FINANCE

The 2021 Annual Financial Statement has been completed and is included on this month's Council Agenda.

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published publicly on eTenders in the period from 22nd February 2022 to 1st April 2022 incl.

Short description	Response deadline
Preparation of a Masterplan for Sixmilebridge, County Clare	20/04/2022
Business Coaching Clare County Council	29/04/2022
Clare Co Co Regional and Local Roads Pavement Overlay Scheme 2022	05/04/2022

Age Friendly



Catherine McGuigan, Programme Manager, Age Friendly Ireland; Kitty Hughes, Chairperson, National Network of Older People's Council; Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive, Meath County Council; Sean Boylan, Age Friendly Ambassador, Meath; Peter McKenna, Stadium Director, Croke Park; and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, and Chair, Age Friendly Alliance Network.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during March:</p> <p>Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Executive Technician Eligibility Exercise • Executive Engineer Eligibility Exercise & Desktop Shortlisting • Assistant Scientist Desktop Shortlisting • Apprentice Heavy Vehicle Mechanic Eligibility Exercise • Buildings Manager Eligibility Exercise • Library Assistant Desktop Shortlisting <p>Interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS Analyst Developer (Networks) • A/Senior Engineer • Fitter/Plumber • Retained Fire-fighter (Ennistymon, Scariff & Shannon) • Employability Clare • Apprentice Heavy Vehicle Mechanic • P/T Receptionist Active Ennis <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <p>Open Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-Time Traffic Warden (Seasonal Employment) • Part-Time & Sporadic Cover School Warden, West Clare MD <p>Confined Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/Senior Engineer
Learning and Development	<p>Online training programmes/webinars/information sessions held in March include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agresso Requisitioners Training • Agresso Approvers Training • Occupational First Aid 3-Day Course • Fire Warden Training • Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar • Work Smarter Not Harder • Junior Achievement Interviews • Safe Pass • 3-Day New Entrant SLG • Banksman • Ride on Roller • CPC Module 3 • Manual Handling • Abrasive Wheels • Forklift New Entrant • CSCS Locating Underground Services • Water Briefing Talks • Forklift Refresher <p>Essential Skillz online courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bribery • Business Communication • Cyber Security • Ergowize • Fire Wardens • Fraud Prevention • GDPR • Heath & Safety Induction • Managing Health & Safety • Manual Handling • Mindfulness • Money Laundering • Working in a Covid Era <p>Climate Action Training undertaken to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69% overall staff • 50% Councillors <p>Training Platform</p> <p>A training platform is now available on the intranet whereby staff can express an interest in a wide variety of training programmes. The areas of interest include business skills, climate action, continuing education, continuing professional development, diversity and inclusion, health and safety, remote working, leading myself, leading my team, PMDS and wellbeing.</p>
Employee Welfare	Employee wellbeing supports are made available to staff across a range of areas. Plans to roll-out health screening are being finalised and will be available in the coming months.
Covid-19	Covid-19 guidance continues to be implemented.
Unions	The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

Council visit to New York for St Patrick's Day

Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, were among those who travelled to New York City, US, during March to meet with the New York Clare Association, as well as participate in the 2022 New York St Patrick's Day Parade.

During the visit to the US northeast, the Council itinerary included meetings with representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland, the IDA, and the American Association of Retired People (AARP).

Also pictured (below) are the three Cathaoirleach of the Mid West: Tom Ruddle, Deputy Mayor, Limerick City and County Council; Marie Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Tipperary County Council; and PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Tom Lane, IFA, Pat Sweeney and Ollie Gleeson, Tour Guides, were joined by John Moylan, Chief Technician, and Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, on a recent visit to the Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk. The IFA and local landowners are proposing improvements beyond the 2km zone to address the need for some works in the next 1km stretch (north). Discussions are ongoing.

Clare to receive funding for 'Autism Aware County Clare' programme



Pictured are (l-r): Dr Susan Crawford, Autism Spectrum Consultant, Get Autism Active; Margaret Cotter, Rural and Community Development Officer, Clare County Council; and Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council.

Clare County Council has been awarded €78,500 under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund (DPAF) 2021 to promote and implement the Autism Aware County Clare programme. This multi-level, county-wide training programme will increase awareness of autism spectrum disorder in the wider community. Given that one in every 65 children of school age has an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis, this project has the potential to have a direct impact on a large number of individuals across County Clare.

Welcoming news of the funding, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, said: "By further encouraging participation in community life for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, this programme will also increase the confidence and comfort with which they and their families can engage with their county council, as well as their local businesses, sports clubs and community organisations."

Dr Susan Crawford, Autism Spectrum Consultant with 'Get Autism Active', commented: "I am delighted to support the development and growth of the Autism Aware County Clare

initiative by Clare County Council. This project will showcase amenities, businesses and community initiatives engaging and driving the agenda of autism awareness and understanding throughout the county. Clare and Ireland have the potential to be the autism hub of Europe, leading the way in best practice from research, policy and actual real life practice perspectives. All areas of community, sport, education, industry and hospitality can gain and be a part of something real and meaningful within the county, leading the way for the country.”

In addition to training, the funding will also facilitate the provision of sensory kits to participants and information and advice to community playground committees which will further reduce barriers to participation and increase confidence and engagement by individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families and friends.

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council, said: “We are delighted to receive this funding and we now envisage a county of communities who have completed this training, hold participation certificates and proudly display Autism Aware County Clare decals in their windows to increase visibility of the level of autism awareness across the county and across all sectors.”

The DPAF was announced in October 2021 by Minister of State with Responsibility for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The purpose of DPAF 2021 is to support the participation of people with disabilities in local activities, remove barriers to community involvement and promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Kilkeedy Community Group

Rural and Community Development Officer for North Clare, Niamh Wiley, along with Cllr Joe Killeen attended a recent meeting with the newly established Kilkeedy Community Group. The group’s members comprise professionals and community leaders from the Tubber Community Hall Committee, Tubber GAA, the National School Parents Council, and the local running club. The committee also includes representation from young families who have moved into the area. The main objective of the group is to address population decline in the area and to pool resources within the Parish of Tubber (Kilkeedy). The group are currently preparing a submission for funding under CLÁR 2022 for the development of a community playground. They have also applied for funding under the Community Support

Scheme 2022 to improve access to a 5KM community walk at Bun Kippaun Woodland.



Ennis West Men’s Projects

Since January, the Ennis West Men’s Shed has assisted Cuan An Chláir in the development of their Community Garden facility, which is located on the grounds behind Cahercalla Hospital. The men have been busy developing wheelchair-accessible raised beds, along with bug hotels and bird boxes for their community garden project. This project is to help enhance the lives of the elderly who attend their Day Care Centre and for those who live in the elderly housing facility.

Cuan An Chláir received funding for this project under the Clare LCDC, through the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 scheme. Rural Development, through the work of RCDO, Niamh Wiley, has assisted both groups to collaborate on this project.

In addition, the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Further Education (LCETB) will deliver a 9-week Foundation Level Course in Horticultural in collaboration with the Ennis West Men’s Shed. This course commences in April and will take place within the gardens of Cuan An Chláir.



Photo taken at a recent meeting of all parties involved in the development of this training programme. Shane Shanahan, Horticulturist, and Breda O’Driscoll, Development Worker, LCETB, Finbar Piggott, Secretary of the Ennis Men’s Shed, Pauline McNamara, Chairperson, Cuan an Chláir, Niamh Wiley, RCDO, Rural Development, Clare County Council.

Public Community Meeting in Doora Village

A public community meeting was held in January to explore the future of Doora village. The meeting was facilitated by Clare County Council's Rural and Community Development Department, Niamh Wiley, RCDO, and Leonore O'Neill, SEO, Ennis Municipal Office. The objective of the meeting was to assess the needs of the community, to identify potential opportunities and to explore if there was an appetite for the development of a representative group for the village. The meeting was well attended by both community stakeholders and Elected Members from the Ennis Municipal District. A need emerged on the night to have a proactive representative group for the village. Subsequent meetings have taken place, which has resulted in the development of the Doora Community Development Group. The group's objective is to develop and promote the village and to make the area a better place to live, work and visit.



Shannon Heritage Project Update



Pictured on a recent site visit to Craggaunowen are Leonard Cleary, Director of Service, Paul Carty, Chairperson, Fáilte Ireland, Donnacha Lynch, Head of Commercial Services, Shannon Heritage Project, and Deirdre O'Shea, A/ Head of Tourism, Clare County Council.

Clare County Council continues to engage with National Government and Shannon Group PLC as part of a detailed and robust due diligence process to consider the potential transfer by Shannon Group PLC of Shannon Heritage (Clare-based sites) to Clare County Council as a subsidiary company.

As part of the process, experienced specialist services have been engaged to examine a range of topics including Human Resource, Operational and Financial, Property and Assets, Capital Investment, ICT, Legal and Taxation relating to the Shannon Heritage properties, namely Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Craggaunowen Bronze Age Park, Knappogue Castle &

Gardens, and the retail unit within Cliffs of Moher Experience.

Technical Due Diligence (TDD) reports are required as part of the potential transfer of Shannon Heritage DAC to Clare County Council as a subsidiary company. Clare County Council and Shannon Group are working with the relevant government departments to secure national funding for the proposed transfer.

In anticipation of national government approval, Clare County Council have commenced a recruitment process for six permanent tourism roles, the new positions will form part of a subsidiary company of Clare County Council.

Preparation works for Loop Head Lighthouse



Preparation works are underway to re-open Loop Head Lighthouse Visitor Attraction during the Summer of 2022. In the photo is Deirdre O'Shea, A/Head of Tourism and Colette Costelloe, Head of Operations, Loop Head Lighthouse and Vandeleur Walled Gardens, with members of the Loop Head design team who have been engaged to design a scope of works to internally refurbish the Lighthouse Keepers Cottage. Works already completed as part of the RRDF 1 Application Funding include the provision of a piped water main to Loop Head Lighthouse and re-roofing and window installation in the Lighthouse Keepers Cottages. In parallel, there are design plans underway for the wider Loop Head Lighthouse project, incorporating the design of a new build Café within the compound, a new visitors Car Park with a Looped Trail commencing from the new Car Park to the Headland. This will be lodged to An Bord Pleanála in March 2022. Second photo of the Tourism Team on a site visit to Loop Head during March 2022.



Pictured (l-r): Tourism Department – Síle Cahill, Nicola Killeen, Éamon Doyle, Joan Tarmey, Seán O'Farrell.

Millions of US TV viewers tuning into Clare

Images of Clare are beaming into homes across the United States from March 2022.

The 30-minute programme on Clare, is airing on the Create/PBS television network and is fronted by Irish television presenter Ciara Whelan.

This programme highlights:

- Ennis, our Capital Town.
- Shannon Airport to highlight this key asset of the County.

- The fairways and greens of Dromoland Castle Hotel & Country Club.
- A guided tour Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience and an on-site performance by the world-famous Kilfenora Céilí Band.
- The food of the Burren takes centre stage.
- A surfing lesson in Lahinch.
- A kayak tour on Lough Derg highlighting just one of the many water-based activities on offer on the Lough Derg Blueway and across Clare.

Th episodes were filmed last summer and are broadcasting, very successfully, on Create/PBS on 240 channels across 26 of

the top 30 territories in the US. The episodes are getting repeat showings, due to increased demand for viewings.

Another showcase of Clare will be recorded for the United States with Michael Londra, for Spring 2023.



The Burren: A Landscape Shaped by Time course with Dr Eamon Doyle

Dr Eamon Doyle kicked off his five-night “The Burren: A Landscape Shaped by Time” course to an eager group of geology enthusiasts in the Burren Outdoor Education Centre on March 22nd. Aside from a few absences to the fully booked class due to Covid-19, the first session went off without a hitch. Eamon guided the group through a variety of interesting topics such as:

- How to properly look at and identify the three different rock types.
- Looking at layers of sedimentary rocks.
- Introducing Geological time. How does the 330 million Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark fall into the overall 4.5-billion-year timeframe of the planet.

The course will run with one evening class per week until April 23rd, with one of the remaining classes featuring a special guest lecture from Dr Tiernan Henry of the Earth and Ocean Sciences Department in NUIG. Squeezing 4.5 billion years of geological magnificence into five two-hour evening sessions is a challenge that Eamon is more than happy to face.

Availability for this course tends to erode away quite quickly, so when you see it appearing again next year, be sure to book your space straight away.



Vandeleur Site Visit to Airfield Estate, Dublin



Pictured on a recent Site Visit to Airfield Estate in Dublin on 23rd March were: Noel Kilkenny, Chair of Kilrush Amenity Trust; Karoly Tarok, Head Gardener; Liam Williams, KAT Board Director; as well as Donnacha Lynch, Deirdre O'Shea, Colette Costelloe, Ruth Hurley and Phil Crowley.

The site visit was hosted by Mr John O'Toole (Director of Finance and Operations, Airfield Estate). The purpose of this visit was to view the gardens and business set up as an information

gathering exercise. This is in preparation for the new chapter of Vandeleur Walled Gardens when the regeneration is complete later this year.

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT – KILRUSH LEA

Active Travel

Lissycasey & Kilmaley

These works will now be overseen by our Road Design Section (Mr John Gannon et al). Land Dedication agreements for Kilmaley are ongoing.

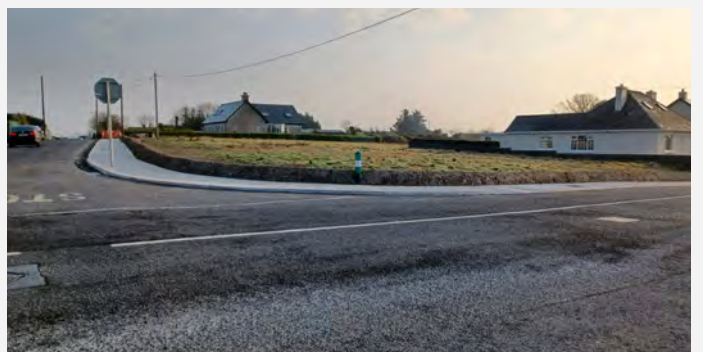
Kilkee

Upgrade to sections of the footpath network in the village is ongoing.



Kilmihil

A new section of footpath installed in Kilmihil, linking up with existing sections. A section of earthen ditch was removed to accommodate the footpath, meaning that pedestrians no longer must go onto the road to negotiate this junction. The new footpath was reinforced and has lowered kerbs, to facilitate future wind turbine transport (if required).



Climate Adaptation

White Strand, Doonbeg:

Works have commenced to replace the temporary orange barrier along the area between the two large RC walls. Barrier railings from Carrigaholt pier are being reused here.



New RC Wall at Carrigaholt (old) Pier (ML Boland).

Wall at Cappa

Seán Crowley (Contractors) repaired a short section of sea wall at Cappa. The stone cladding had come away from the RC core of the wall.



Replace stone cladding to wall - Cappa (Seán Crowley).

EuroVelo scheme

Carrigaholt village – The Square

As part of the EuroVelo scheme a number of bicycle racks, bicycle repair stations and cyclist (tourist) information map boards are being provided along the EuroVelo route.



2021 piers & Harbours scheme

Carrigaholt (old) pier

A new section of pier wall is approaching completion. A section of the wave wall is also being repaired.

The pier wall replaces a c.30m section of railing. During storms, the railing allowed the sea to wash across the pier and into boats moored at the sheltered face of the pier. This had led to boats (moored across from the railings) almost submerging as sea water was taken on board.

The railings are being reused at Doonbeg White Strand. The base of the wave wall will be locked into position with a replacement RC beam. The base of the wall was held in position with long cobblestones sank into the seabed, but these have become loose and damaged over time. Works are being undertaken by Ml. Boland, Contractors.

Miscellaneous

Kilrush – The Square

A drinking fountain has been installed in the Square, near the Town Hall. Installation of this refill station was delayed due to public health concerns during Covid-19. The fountain will allow passers-by to refill their water bottles or simply avail of a drink of water. It is very much an environmentally friendly scheme, and it is hoped that its installation will lead to a reduction in the use of single-use plastic water bottles.



2022 Roadworks Programme

West Clare Municipal District has commenced the 2022 roadworks programme.

Drainage works/road preparation works have been ongoing for some time.

Embankment works to assist positive road drainage is ongoing along a section of the N68 which was recently overlaid.

West Clare MD have commenced road resurfacing for 2022. Road recycling, stone paving and surface dressing for the season commenced on the L-2036 (Breaghwa).



Road preparation works, Killernan.



New earthen banking to recent pavement overlay - N68.



RR and Surface Dressing - Breaghwa.

Beaches

There are a number of Blue Flag (Kilkee, Cappagh) & Green Coast (Seafield, Quilty) and other popular beaches in the West Clare MD - Kilrush LEA.

The summer season is soon to commence, and the bathing season officially commences in mid-May. In 2021 Clare County Council allocated substantial resources to ensuring that facilities at our beaches were of the highest standard, and to facilitating an Outdoor Summer for “staycationers” during the pandemic.

Similar resources will be required in 2022. Similar visitor numbers are anticipated. Pandemic restrictions may have eased but recent events may conspire to make a staycation in West Clare a very attractive option. And where else would you be?

West Clare MD plan to provide a more detailed report on the summer season in subsequent Monthly Management Reports.

North Clare

Doolin Pier – Installation of flexible bollards to improve car park layout and access for surfers.



Ennistymon Cemetry – Resurfacing of roadway throughout cemetery.

Ruan – Works have commenced on the Ruan Pedestrian Crossing as part of the Active Travel Programme.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

We already have a quarter of the year behind us and to quote an over-heard conversation of a teenager, “I am sick of living through history”. I am sure we can all emulate this sentiment as we strive to adjust to the reality of 2022.

which will be completed in the first half of 2022. Credit is due to all the Housing team involved in the delivery and allocation of this high quality project.

The placement of displaced Ukrainians in Clare began over the long bank holiday weekend. The Housing section were involved in the compilation of detail on medium term accommodation for Ukrainian refugees. This information was forwarded to the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) who are tasked with the provision of accommodation for displaced Ukrainians. We are working closely with our colleagues in the Rural directorate and the Crisis Management Team on the co-ordination of supports necessary to support our new Clare residents.

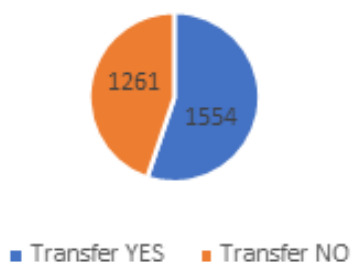


All the while the business of housing continues at pace with the housing public counter open to the public without appointment from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call **065 6846334** or **065 6849403** to schedule same.

The development at Radharc an Óir, Newmarket on Fergus was completed with 18 tenancies allocated during the month. The development is the first of approximately 150 new homes

Housing need as of 30/03/2022

Gross housing need 2815

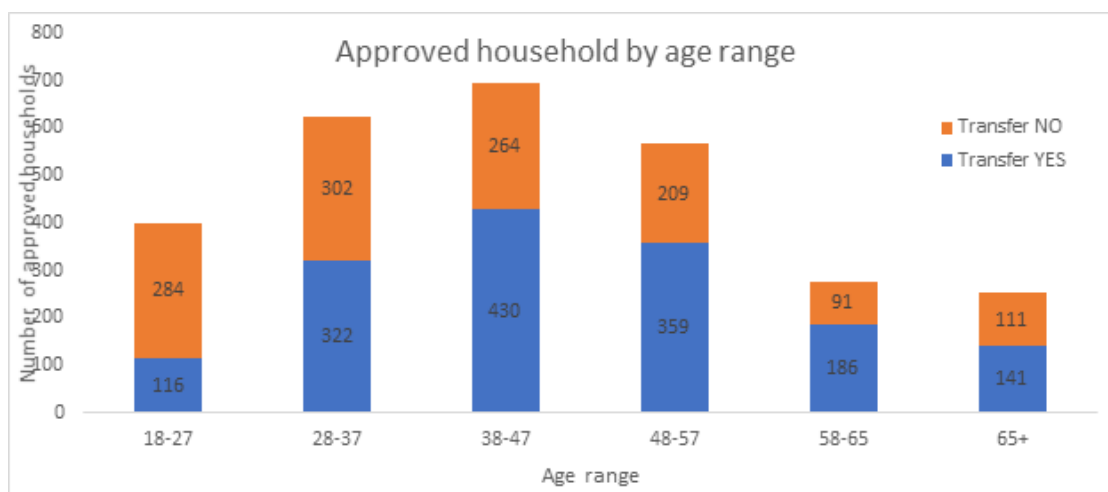


Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved:

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE (only)	BEDS APPROVED					Grand Total
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	
CLARECASTLE		131	27	10	1	169
CLONLARA		16	5	2		23
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	2	33	10	1		46
COROFIN/RUAN		51	22	3		76
ENNIS	5	901	187	66	3	1162

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH		112	29	5		146
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE		133	30	4		167
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY		24	3	2		29
KILFENORA		6	2			8
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT		68	10	1		79
KILLALOE		54	9	3		66
KILMALEY		10	3			13
KILMIHIL		9	7	3		19
KILRUSH		95	29	8		132
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN		37	10	5		52
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY		77	37	10		124
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY		69	12	7		88
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS		58	13	4		75
QUIN		16	8	1		25
SHANNON		180	24	14		218
SIXMILEBRIDGE		36	6	7		49
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD		39	8	2		49
Grand Total	7	2155	491	158	4	2815



BEDS APPROVED						
BASIS OF NEED	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	Grand Total
Concluded that Mortgage is uns		27	2	6		35
Currently Dependent on Rent Su	1	1252	351	76	1	1681
Disability requirement - intel	3	78	3	5		89
Disability requirement - menta		61	6	2		69
Disability requirement - physi	1	107	15	2		125
Disability requirement - senso		3	3			6
Exceptional Medical or Compass		68	20	17		105
Homeless, Institution, Emergen	1	88	18	2		109
Involuntary Sharing	1	305	38	7		351
Overcrowded		71	26	30	2	129
Unfit		32	3	5		40
Unsuitable - Particular Househ		63	6	6	1	76
Grand Total	7	2155	491	158	4	2815

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing allocations

Offers issued (from 23.2.2022 to 25.3.2022)	61
Offers refused	5
Tenancies signed up	42
Tenancies terminated	12

Housing Tenancies

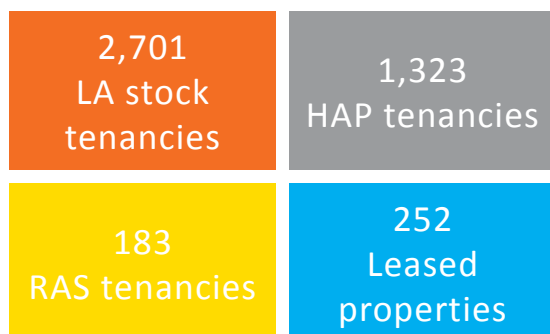
*Breakdown of tenancies by municipal district, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent):

PROPERTY STATUS				
Municipal District	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Ennis MD	5	1177	32	1214
Killaloe MD		375	9	384
West Clare MD	1	930	41	972
Shannon MD	10	672	11	693
Grand Total	16	3154	93*	3263

Vacant Stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD
Traveller accommodation	4	6	2	0
Derelict properties	0	2	0	1
Projects	5	6	0	0
Completed scheme	0	0	2	0
Casual vacancies	23	27	7	8
TOTAL	32	41	11	9

Average cost of returning casual vacancies to stock in March was €23,788 with an average vacancy period of 121 days.

Tenancies



Estate Management

The Tenancy Enforcement Team continue to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants to manage and mitigate against complaints of antisocial behaviour.

	March 22	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	581	1,721

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing asb@clarecoco.ie. The working hours of the TEO team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The TEO team can be contacted out of office hours, should the need arise, by contacting the Council Emergency Phone no. **(087) 4169496**

Private Rented inspections

The agreed target for private rented inspections to be undertaken by this Council in 2022 is 1,025. The Council has a work programme which identifies a roadmap to achieve the target number of inspections. It is acknowledged that a significant ramping up of inspections is required to achieve the target for 2022. That said COVID continues to impact our inspection programme as tenants remain nervous of permitting access to their homes. In addition some tenants are not available when we call to the property to carry out a scheduled inspection in spite of the written arrangement and follow up confirmation closer to the inspection date and appointments are also being cancelled by tenants at short notice which impacts on resourcing alternative inspections.

During the month of March to date 69 virtual inspections packs were issued of these 9 Landlords engaged in the process. 19 physical inspections of properties were undertaken during this period.

Housing Grants

Grants Approved for March 2022

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	10	105,542
Housing Aid for Older People	19	78,1000
Mobility Aids Grant	11	44,470
Total	40	228,112

On 28th March the Council received notification of the 2022 grant allocation which is an overall funding envelope of **€2,273,880** made up of €1,819,104 Exchequer funding and €454,776 from the Council's own resources. The Council is requested to prioritise essential works and works necessary to facilitate discharge from hospital settings.

Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie



Homeless

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on **065 684 6291**.

The service is running at capacity with access to private emergency accommodation further impacted by the demand for accommodation of this nature.

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 17th February 2022 to 24th March 2022: 5 households exited from homeless services, 1 to Local Authority Allocations and 2 to VH allocations, 1 discharged and 1 to community residence.

Homeless presentations from 17th February 2022 to 24th March 2022:

New presentations	44
Repeat presentations	202
Total Presentations	246

Status as of 24th March 2022:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	4	6	8	1
Westbrook	0	17	0	1
Ashford Court	8	13	13	1
EA Families	1	8	1	1
EA Individuals	0	7	0	5
TOTAL	13	64	22	10

Ukrainian accommodation response

The Housing team has been very busy during March addressing the housing issues associated with the influx of displaced persons from the Ukraine. The Council were tasked with identifying a number of potentially available “quick turnaround” multi-occupancy emergency shelter and accommodation facilities in their functional areas. The elected members provided invaluable assistance and an initial list was compiled and sent to the Department. Further instruction is awaited on this matter.

Vacant properties

The Council continues to address dereliction and vacancy in Clare. The vacant homes unit is seeking ownership details on a number of properties that have been identified as potential long term vacant in each MD. Initial visual inspections on 32 potential properties was carried out during March. The team is also progressing with the CPO process for one vacant property in the Killaloe MD.

The public are encouraged to register vacant properties on the website www.vacanthomes.ie Properties registered on this website are investigated and assessed for suitability for redevelopment/purchase.

Status as at 25/03/2022

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	2	2	2
Killaloe	3		2
West Clare	6	30	
Shannon			
TOTAL	11	32	4

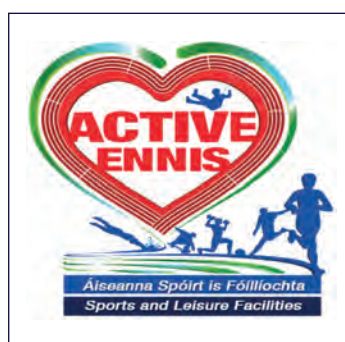
Update on capital programme:

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Shantraud Woods, Killaloe	4	Complete and allocated		Q1 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Complete and allocated	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q2 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Stage 2 Approved. Part VIII Approved	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII under Judicial Review	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Clarecastle	2	4 Stage application to issue to DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Submit determination by ABP.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q4 2023	Q1 2024

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 1 approved.	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. CENA appointed to support project development.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Subtotal	246			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V – Completed. Sale closed 15th February 2022.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Under construction 9 to be delivered Q4 2022 15 to be delivered Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	55	CALF Turnkey (14 units delivered in Q4 2021) 15 units to be delivered in Q1 2022 40 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q2 2021 Q4 2021	Q1 2022 Q3 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey – construction in progress	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVerry Trust)	14	CAS Turnkey – Department approval received	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen	16	CALF Turnkey – Department approved 6 units to be delivered in Q1 2023 10 units to be delivered in Q4 2023	Q2 2022 Q3 2022	Q1 2023 Q4 2023
Subtotal	151			
Total	381			

SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Easter Camp will be running from 18th – 22nd April, these camps are full however please refer to www.activeennis.ie to keep up to date on camps and swimming lessons planned for the summer.

We are delighted to welcome back Birthday Parties from April, booking to be arranged by calling 065 6821604.

Gym:

- Yoga classes return on Saturday mornings
- Circuits classes are back with a new instructor on Tuesdays Thursdays and Saturdays

- All other classes are back with limited places available in the more popular classes.

Pool:

- Clubs, organisations, schools are all back to full capacity training
- Clare Water Safety and Lifeguard Training has recommenced
- The popular swim lesson programme is open for booking for the new term commencing in May. Bookings will be taken from 11th April
- The Schools swimming programme timetable is full for the Easter/Summer Term.

Active Ennis Tim Smyth Park, Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road, Active Kilrush Sports Complex & Active Ennis, Cloughleigh.

Upcoming activities and events:

- Community Games competitions scheduled for June/July
- Schoolboy/girl soccer leagues are resuming in April
- Forest School is continuing in wooded area with strong engagement with local primary schools
- Charity events – there was a very successful walk in aid of Ukraine held in Tim Smyth Park on 26th March

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- All weather pitch in John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road was recertified to FIFA/ World Rugby specifications.

Clubs and patrons are reminded to exercise personal responsibility with regard to their safety and the safety of others. All clubs and patrons are requested to leave facilities as they find them.

Any operational issues or queries can be reported by email to info@activeennis.ie

All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with pre-booking essential on www.activeennis.ie



Clare Sports Partnership

Clare Sports Partnership continue to work with clubs and the community in the active participation in sport in the county. For further details on activities please check out www.claresports.ie

Clare Sports Partnership are delighted to introduce: Teen Girls Programme

The programme begins on Tuesday, April 5th, 4:30 – 5:30pm at Active Ennis Leisure Complex and will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The programme consists of 2 x 1-hour sessions per week for 4weeks. Tuesday’s session will consist of Zumba & Pound Fitness. Thursday’s session will consist of Yoga and Life Coaching.

The Programme coordinator is Lizzy Mc Nicholas, Sports Development Officer, Clare Sports Partnership.

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library



Clare County Library event at Ennis Book Club Festival

Clare County Library service supported Ennis Book Club Festival in March. Clare Library sponsored the “Look it’s a woman writer” event in glor with an audience of 120 while 2,500 people attended 24 events in Ennis over the weekend of the Festival.

A new library desk was installed in Shannon Library this month. This is to enable the next phase of integration of the Library IT system with Clare County Council IT.

Spydus – the new library management system was installed this month. There were 35 deliveries made to those who are housebound.

Online Resources usage for previous month – e-audiobooks continue to be immensely popular

1,367 E-Books	2,424 E-Audiobooks	680 E-Magazines
270 Online courses	1661 Press Reader	55 Transparent Languages

Marketing

Social media stats for previous month.

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/ Retweets/ Reach	Comments
	660	6155	83	477	2011	24
	13	2001	23	73	25	1
	24	1621	82	836	13013	17

There has been a significant increase in the number of live events in the last month since restrictions have lifted – including workshops, story times and events. There also has been a sizeable increase in audience attendance.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Total number of live events	80
Total number of online events	4
Total attendances at live events	992
Total attendances at online events	24
Total number of outreach visits	8
Total attendance at outreach visits	159



Teen week event in De Valera Library.

Right to Read

The library's annual Teen Week in collaboration with the Ennis Book Club Festival was enjoyed by second level students in Ennis and Shannon. Events featured author visits, Fighting Words Creative Writing Workshops and a hands-on demonstration for teenagers on how to use folklore from your native place to create stories with a difference, facilitated by Dr. Tracey Fahey. Bridget Bhreathnach met with children from Gaelscoil Mhichíl Chíosóog at deValera Library on the 11th of March to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022. Bridget's workshops were based on her award-winning book *Cluasa Capaill ar an Rí*.

World Book Day was celebrated in libraries across the county by hosting story times and special book displays from which children could select the latest reads. The "Little Library" initiative continues with delivery of book bags on the theme of friendship for children attending Early Learning Centres. This initiative will be further expanded to include children who will start primary school in September 2022. To celebrate this, and to help them navigate this new experience, libraries will gift each child a special bag of books that includes stories about starting school, being happy in yourself, and making friends. Children's writer Mary Murphy will visit 4 libraries in the coming weeks to further promote the initiative through her picture book workshops ideally suited to pre-schoolers.

Work Matters

Two workshops on career advice and interview preparation were held in Scariff Library this month.

Healthy Ireland



Chair Yoga in Newmarket-on-Fergus Library.

One Healthy Ireland event was delivered in Newmarket-on-Fergus Library this month. Trish Cleary, yoga teacher, delivered an excellent workshop, accompanied by old-time music for 7 adults. Additional workshops are planned for the month of April.

Creative Ireland

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD announced an extension to the Creative Ireland programme. It is set to continue for a further five years, encompassing the period 2023-2027, the Creative Ireland Programme will focus on the following areas:

- Creative Youth
- Creative Communities
- Creative Industries
- Creative Health and Wellbeing
- Creative Climate Action and Sustainability

The Creative Ireland Clare Culture Team have begun the process of planning a new Clare Cultural Strategy that encompasses these five pillars and will see continued cultural growth and enhancement through partnership and integration in County Clare for the next five years.

Clare Archives

The descriptive list for the Canon Dwyer collection is nearing completion and will be published on the website by the end of March. Each month the Archives Service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view material in the local studies library from the archives' collection. Numerous requests



Mela Event in Ennis

and queries were received this month in relation to Minute Books, Electoral Registers, negatives from the Brooks collection (to be digitised professionally) and Board of Guardian's material. The digitisation of material continues. A suitable host for the Archive website is being explored to ensure long term digital preservation for the digital repository. A large collection of Manager's [Chief Executive] Orders have been identified in current storage in various departments of the Áras building. These have been collected and are being sent for binding; the volumes will then be sent to the Archival repository for permanent retention. An additional collection from the Planning Department will be sent for binding in stages due to its size.

Clare Arts Office

The Visual Voices programme continued with workshops with the Alzheimer's Society, St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and Raheen Day Care Centre. Guided talks took place at the Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon and the County Museum for the Cultural Companions. Three exhibitions also took place in Kilkee, Ennis and Scariff. Clare Youth Theatre performed at the Ennis Book Club Festival, St. Patrick's Day Parade and the National Commemoration Day to mark the end of Covid.

A new Public Art Policy was recommended by the SPC for adoption by the Council. The Arts Officer adjudicated at the Senior Level Student Enterprise Awards and participated in a panel discussion at the Places Matters Conference in Carlow. The Tones residency, as the EASI Studios, was awarded to Polish Photographer Beata Rosnik. The final In the Open Air Event, the Ennis Mela, took place in the Ennis Market on Sunday March 26th featuring music and dance from diverse cultures. Cultúrlann Sweeney re-opened after Covid-19 with the resumption of the monthly film club and a gallery talk.

PRISM Street Art Project launched a call for applications as did the 3rd Phase of the Live Local Performance Scheme. A total of 78 Arts Applications were received and assessed through the Assistance under the Arts Act Scheme. Three artists were commissioned to create new work for the Decade of Centenaries

programme. Ana Colomer began an "Artist in Schools" residency with 37 children in Connolly NS while four other artists completed residencies in Clohanbeg, Boston, Liscannor and Bansha schools working with over 90 children.

Arts and Disability projects in drama, dance and visual art started with 22 disabled people in Brothers of Charity Scariff and Carramor, and in the Dulick Centre. The arts office social media pages reached 8,710 this month, with 1,103 engagements. The social media groups had 186 posts that generated 54 comments and 691 reactions. One post and 11 events were added to the Arts Office and Council websites.

Clare Museum

An application was submitted by the museum curator to the Heritage Council for funding for a new museum website, which is one of the objectives in the museum's strategic plan. The minutes of the February Council meeting, where the museum's remaining policies were adopted, was forwarded to the Heritage Council for accreditation purposes.

Five items were donated to the museum collection, including a Book of Common Prayer from Kildysart dated to 1837 and a pair of 19th century police handcuffs for children from Kilrush. The curator has been approached by the Clare Association to provide an article for this year's edition. University College Cork is seeking images from the collection for a major publication on Irish sport. The university became aware of these items because of their inclusion on the museum website.

Ennis Book Club Festival hosted an event in the Museum with an audience of 25 in attendance. Crusheen NS were given a school tour this month. They were particularly interested in the temporary exhibition on the War of Independence in Clare, which is relevant to the curriculum. A tour was also given to a historical society from Belfast. The museum attendant has continued photographing the museum collection. There were nine social media posts regarding the collection during the month, and these continue to prove popular, particularly when they are linked to anniversaries of events, births, deaths etc.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

Preliminary preparation works are underway in relation to the Schedule of Municipal District works 2022. Works involving drainage, verge cutting and surface preparation of selected roads is now underway.

Design and contract documents will be prepared for the 2022 Blacktop programme over the coming months.

Section 38 Traffic Calming

Section 38s at Clarisford, Killaloe and Ballycuggeran, Killaloe were passed at the March meeting of the MD. This will allow Clare Council to proceed with safety measures in both locations.

Ballycuggeran

As the Springtime approaches the Summer, Killaloe MD will be increasing resources at Ballycuggeran in line with demand to deal with the expected increase in visitor numbers.

Active Travel 2021 Summary: Killaloe MD Programme

Project	Status
Tulla footpath remediation	Works ongoing
Tulla connection to athletics grounds	Tender Evaluation stage
Droomindoora	Tender preparation
Quin	Works substantially complete
Clarisford Park Connection	At Tender
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Works Complete

St Joseph's Secondary School CSPE class

7 students accompanied by 3 teachers from the CSPE class at St Joseph's secondary school, Tulla visited the Council Chamber on 25th March 2022.

The students heard from the Cathaoirleach of the MD in relation to the role Elected Members play in local government. They also received a presentation in relation to all the services provided by Clare County Council. A question and answer session followed the presentation. The students and teachers were extremely appreciative of the chance to delve into the workings of local government



Students and teachers of St Joseph's Tulla with Cllr Joe Cooney; Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEO Killaloe MD; and Mary McMahon, Administrative Office, Corporate Services.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ennis 2040

The Ennis 2040 loan sanction has been issued by the Department. In line with proper governance structures the Ennis 2040 DAC has established three sub committees on finance, communications and investment. Stakeholder engagement on Ennis 2040 projects is ongoing.

Clare Economic Taskforce

A briefing note on the potential to develop the off-shore wind energy off the Co. Clare/ Mid West coast was prepared for Government. The briefing note highlighted the potential to develop at least 75GW of floating off shore wind (€100 billion investment) by making sustainable use of our maritime assets and providing a green energy solution for Ireland and the EU. The document signalled the need for the development of an offshore renewable energy marshalling facility to deploy floating wind projects by 2028 and the creation of a supply chain enterprise hub on the Shannon Estuary.

Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI)

Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

Testing and analysis of the blockwork on Creek Lodge in Kilrush was requested in November 2021 by Clare County Council to establish the compressive strength and geological classification of the block core. Due to the scale of testing nationally, significant delays to the testing and analysis of the block core by a geologist have been experienced. A structural engineer will appraise the results of the core sampling on receipt and give an overview as to the implications of any results on the structural integrity of the building. The findings and interpretation are due in April 2022.

The Kilrush Maritime Training Centre has been endorsed by Senior Management as one of 3 projects to go forward for RRDF Category 1 funding. The SEI team are undertaking background work on completion of required information for the application and in particular, the expanded requirements in terms of compliance with the Public Spending Code.

SIFP for Shannon Estuary

Offshore renewable energy

Clare County Council submitted its application for membership to the Shannon Estuary Taskforce in March. The Chief Executive has been proposed as the lead Local Authority on the implementation of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary to the benefit of all areas of the estuary. Clare County Council will be seeking to protect, maximize, and prioritize future economic development in line with our county's Vision for the Shannon Estuary and its surrounding hinterland.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has also invited submissions in line with its Terms of Reference to inform the work of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce.

Submissions are invited from the public and other key stakeholders setting out views on the economic development potential of the Shannon Estuary, as well as any investment and policy requirements to fulfil that potential under some, or all the following headings:

- Transport and Connectivity
- Manufacturing
- Renewable Energy
- Tourism.

Submissions should be no longer than 1,500 words and should be submitted by email to shannontaskforce@enterprise.gov.ie.

The closing date for receipt of submissions was 5pm, Wednesday, 30 March, 2022.

Responses will inform the work of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce.

One Shannon Hub

Shannon Town Centre has been considered the heart of Shannon Town since it was built in the 1970s and while it functions in many respects as a service provider, it lacks definition and a sense of place. The Shannon Town Centre Masterplan was finalised in January 2022. One of the key objectives of this Masterplan is to provide definition to the town centre by establishing a heart to the town centre, creating a 'sense of place' that captures and secures the benefit of growth for the community and generates night and day-time footfall.

In this regard, a statement of intent has been given by Clare County Council to build a new civic and cultural centre that would provide a local authority civic presence in the town centre, therefore providing a building for civic and cultural needs of the people. It is proposed to create a building with multiple uses, that will also facilitate an enterprise centre and a cultural quarter with a performance space. This building will be a place where multiple uses coexist to create new synergies and ensure activity throughout the day and evening / night-time.

The project delivery of the Shannon Civic and Community Hub commenced in February. Background work and research is ongoing, and the preparation of URDF application which is key to the funding of a number of Masterplan projects, has also commenced.

Roche Masterplan

Consultation with the Clarecastle community has continued to establish a coherent approach to the vision for the village and to provide a coherent inclusive submission to the Draft Clare County Development Plan by the deadline on the 28th of March.

In terms of the Masterplan, Screening for both Strategic

Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment were completed and issued for consultation with the Statutory Environmental Authorities with all submissions due for return by Friday the 25th of March. The preparation of the Masterplan is being progressed by OMP with a draft of Masterplan due in Mid-April which will take on board issues raised by Clarecastle community and the IDA.

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029



The public consultation process for the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 closed on the 28th of March, with over 1,000 submissions received. This level of public submissions/interest compares with that of larger City authorities and follows an extensive public consultation campaign carried out since the consultation commenced on 10th December 2021 with nine dedicated public consultation events around the County. The Forward Planning Team also staffed a stand dedicated to the Draft Clare County Development on O’Connell Street in Ennis for the St Patrick’s Day Parade and this generated great interest and interaction on the day and was highly commended by the general public. A stand dedicated to the Draft County Development Plan was also present at the Sixmilebridge Town Centre First briefing held in the Bridge Active Building, in Sixmilebridge and at the Enhancing Ennistymon Public Consultation event held in Teach Ceoil, Ennistymon.

Those attending the consultation events represented varying



interests including individual, business and community interests and the events provided a valuable forum for answering questions and providing information on the Draft Development Plan.

Engagement with Young People

The second year Geography students of Scarriff Community College participated in the pre-draft public consultation for the new Clare County Development Plan process in November 2020, which culminated in a virtual discussion on their submission with the Killaloe Elected Members. As part of the public consultation process for the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 the same students, now in 3rd year, were welcomed to the Council Chamber by the Chief Executive, Pat Dowling and the elected members of the Killaloe Municipal District to learn and discuss how their pre-draft submission had informed the preparation of the Draft Development Plan. This approach was commended by the Planning Regulator for providing such a valuable opportunity for active engagement between the elected members as plan policy makers with young people who are the County’s future.



Media Campaign

An extensive media campaign was undertaken throughout the public consultation period including media releases, newspaper adverts, radio interview, daily community diary announcements during the period of public consultation events, social media posts. An information video of the Director of Service, Liam Conneally, introducing the development plan process and explaining how anybody could get involved and have their say on the Draft Plan was available on the dedicated County Development Plan web page and was also shared on social media. Dissemination of information on the consultation events to the PPN, parish councils and schools throughout the County was also undertaken to further promote the consultation process within communities around the County.

Over the coming weeks, all the submissions received will be reviewed and the Chief Executive’s Report prepared. Upon finalisation, the CE Report will then be issued to the Elected Members for their consideration in early July 2022.

Sixmilebridge Town Centre Masterplan

Following the announcement in early February of €100,000 of Government funding to prepare a Town Centre Masterplan for Sixmilebridge, Clare County Council held a briefing and consultation session for community and local business representatives on 1st March 2022 at the Bridge Active Building in Sixmilebridge. The session was well attended with 28 people in total representing 15 local groups and businesses. Feedback from the session was collated and has been included as part of the project brief, which was finalised earlier this month. The project brief and a request for tender for an urban design and planning consultant to prepare the Masterplan were published on Etenders on the 16th March 2022. The closing date for tenders is the 20th April 2022.

The masterplan will provide a co-ordinated approach to developing a vision for the town and will include a detailed study of the area and identification of key projects and actions which will revitalise the town centre, for example, the refurbishment/repurposing of vacant/derelict buildings, development of key underutilised town centre sites, traffic management, place-making etc. The masterplan will be key to leveraging additional funding from multiple funding streams including the Government’s Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF), Town and Village Renewal Scheme etc. and will ensure a co-ordinated programme of investment for the town into the future. A brief for the preparation of the masterplan is currently underway.

Ennistymon Enhancement Plan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects continued work on the preparation of the Ennistymon Enhancement plan. The Design Team held its second public consultation event in Ennistymon in February and it was well attended, and the



design team gained valuable feedback on initial design proposals. Clare County Council launched an online questionnaire to increase engagement with the project. The steering group met in late March to discuss the findings of the second stage of public consultation, which will inform the next stages design process.

Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) continued in their partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. A design team led by the award-winning Hall McKnight Architects has been appointed. The design team continued the design process in March, and this is heavily informed by the findings of the first stage of public consultation and baseline research. The design process will continue into April.

The Outdoor Public Space Scheme

With funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, GKMP Architects have been appointed as lead consultant on a multi-disciplinary design team. The delivery of the project will support communities across the county in delivering

their cultural offering while enhancing the experiences of those visiting the towns and villages in a Covid-19 compliant manner. The design team initiated the developed design process in March, and the steering group met with the design team to discuss progress.

The Manchester Martyrs Monument



The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush will be repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. Mid-West Lime Ltd have been appointed to carry out the repair works on site. The wrought iron railings are being repaired off site by a specialist heritage blacksmith. The repair and cleaning of the stonework progressed through March, and will continue into April.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the month of March up to and including March 30th 2022 and also gives the year to date totals. To date the number of applications received is marginally ahead of 2021. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period in 2021 by 33, representing a 15% increase year on year.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	March 2022 up to & incl 30/03/2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	111	287
No. of Planning Decisions made	75	2561
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	2	10
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	24	62
No. of Section 5 applications	9	23
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	4	12
Submissions received regarding Compliance	33	108

Planning Enforcement

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning enforcement during March, together with the year to date totals.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	March 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	12	23
No of Files Opened	1	7
No. of Warning Letters issued	3	11
No. of Enforcement Notices served	0	1
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	0
No. of Enforcement files closed	1	1

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Applications to Ireland's new Tentative List of World Heritage Properties

Clare County Council submitted two applications for inclusion of (1) The Cultural Landscape of the Burren Uplands and (2) Iniscealtra / Holy Island on to Ireland's new Tentative List of World Heritage Properties to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 30 June 2021.



Aerial photograph of Iniscealtra, on Lough Derg, Co. Clare, taken from the north (credit: Clare County Council).

As part of the Department process of preparing a new Tentative List for Ireland, an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) was appointed by the Minister to review all valid applications received and make recommendations. In particular, the EAG were required to assess whether submitted applications demonstrated Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as well as stakeholder support.



Mullaghmore at the heart of the Burren National Park, showing limestone cliffs and terraces (Image courtesy of Burren National Park).

The EAG considers that the two Clare applications, both Iniscealtra / Holy Island and the Cultural Landscape of the Burren Uplands potentially have OUV but that both applications require more work to demonstrate this. Meetings have been held between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the EAG and Clare County Council to specifically consider the recommendations made by the EAG for both sites and further meetings are planned in May 2022.

Clare Heritage Plan Projects

Funding was received from the Heritage Council for two projects which were submitted to the Heritage Council for Clare County Heritage Plans.

1. A Heritage Audit and the development of a Heritage and Tourism Action Plan for Lisdoonvarna to provide design principals and design solutions for the public realm. The aim is to ensure that an informed, evidence based and agreed community heritage plan and heritage led regeneration will inform future planning and guide future investment in the town.
2. The second proposal will provide funding for the Clare Community Archaeology Scheme to raise awareness of Clare's archaeology among landowners and community groups, promote best practice while collaborating with relevant agencies and to safeguard and conserve archaeological monuments. Terms of Reference for the work has been prepared and a suitable consultant is being sought at present.

Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Manual

Presentations and discussions took place on the Clare Biodiversity programme and the roll out of the Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Manual at the Social Development and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committees meeting in March.

4th National Biodiversity Action Plan

An online submission was made on the initial draft of Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Creative Ireland Clare

Meetings have taken place between the Creative Ireland Clare team and with the national Creative Ireland team to discuss the development of the next phase of Creative Ireland and the preparation of the Creative Ireland Clare Strategy 2023-2027.

Four heritage projects have been awarded funding under the Clare Creative Ireland Strategy as follows:

1. County Survey and recording information on known locations of 136 Cillíns or unbaptised children's burial grounds throughout County Clare.
2. Reading your Local Landscape 2022 in Miltown Malbay including writing up of projects for the iCAN Website.
3. Awareness raising and improved physical and intellectual access to County Clare Holy Wells, while pilot of a scheme to make access improvements via grant aid to communities.
4. Production of a best practice information video on the management of historic burial grounds for communities in the Care and Conservation Historic Graveyards in collaboration with the Burial Grounds Unit.

Conservation and Built Heritage Built Heritage Investment Scheme

The successful recipients of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022 were announced on the 7th March 2022. The BHIS covers the costs of works up to €30,000, with 50% match funding required. The BHIS applies to buildings on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and to buildings in Architectural Conservation Areas, in exceptional circumstances. A total of €96,000 was allocated to Clare County Council by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 2022. Works will be monitored by the Architectural Conservation Officer over the next six months

The successful applicants are:

- Stacks, Main St, Ennistymon
- Glencairn House, Ennis
- Michael Cusack Thatched Cottage, Carron
- Land Steward's House, Clooney House, Quin
- Loop Head Lightkeeper's House, Kilbaha
- O'Gradys Bar, Tubber
- No 1 Bindon St, Ennis
- The Store, Tuamgraney
- Manus House, Clarecastle
- 44 Abbey Street, Ennis.

The results of the applications made under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) will be announced in early April.

Community Monuments Fund 2022

The closing date for the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) was March 1st. A total of seven applications were submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage by Clare County Council. The successful projects will be announced in the coming weeks.

The CMF provides funding of up to €30,000 for the production of a Conservation Management Framework which outlines the architectural, archaeological and ecological management of a structure. This can be used to carry out capital works in future grant applications. The CMF also covers the cost of repairs and restoration, up to €85,000, on a project. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provide 100% of the costs incurred.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in March, together with the totals for 2022 to date.

Again, this month, we assisted many solicitors with enquiries to the Property Management Unit on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc which is indicative of increasing of levels of activity in the property market in the County generally.

Transaction	March 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
Lease of Property / Building	1	1	4
Licence to use property / building	2	3	11
Grazing Agreement for Lands	17	17	22
Deed of Transfer signed	2	7	12
Contract for Sale signed	0	0	3
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	2	5	3
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	1	7
Allotment Agreements signed	38	38	39

Facilities Management

The external appearance of Áras Contae an Chláir has been greatly improved in recent months. The completion of the new footpath has made access to our Headquarters easier and safer for all customers. The clearance of over-hanging trees at the rear of the car park together with works done by a neighbouring property owner has also improved visibility and safety for all. Works are also being completed at weekends on power-hosing the pathways in the car park which is a marked improvement. With great input from the Gardening section, a newly planted area has been provided at Waterpark Campus.

In line with the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions, the office arrangements are being reviewed, taking account of national guidance and the need for a careful and measured return to the new normal.

Ballymaley Enterprise and Innovation Centre

Following the acquisition of a vacant building at Ballymaley Business Park, the Council is progressing the detailed design for its refurbishment to a modern enterprise and innovation centre, with appropriate branding. The report on the Part VIII

application will be before the elected members for consideration at the April meeting. This proposal is for the re-use of a vacant building to a modern flagship Enterprise and Innovation Centre for Ennis, so that County Clare can position itself as a progressive strategic location for early stage start-ups, multinationals and their employees.

The specific focus for the facility will be to nurture and retain indigenous early stage enterprises (with a particular focus on future technologies), provide an advance location for Foreign Direct investment (FDI) and flexible facilities to accommodate various types of enterprise. We will ensure stakeholder collaboration to deliver a high quality facility of regional scale to elevate the county's economic offering and encourage more people to live and work in Clare.

The delivery of this project, in conjunction with the Ennis 2040 DAC, will not only benefit Ennis in the current climate but importantly will help to develop and grow a forward looking business eco-system aligned to a town with a growing population and an entrepreneurship culture.

Casual Trading

A casual trading licence for Fanore Beach for 2022 was issued and four licences were issued for trading at Kilrush Horse Fair on 25th March.

Derelict Sites

The Council is still awaiting information on the the proposed new grant for people to re-develop vacant or derelict properties into permanent residences. It is hoped that it will provide a stimulus to owners of vacant and derelict properties to take action to return them to habitable properties or to commercial use.

In particular, since the beginning of the year 2022, we have seen a positive impact with a number of owners of derelict properties bringing them to market once the notices under the Derelict sites Act have been served. We are also seeing the outcome of sales agreed in late 2021 with enquiries, planning applications for refurbishment and commencement of real works to render properties non-derelict. This is not to say that there are not many challenges in dealing with derelict sites as we come across many issues which need to be resolved. However, with time and effort, working with owners and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The pictures below show the before and after photos of a derelict site in the Parnell Street Car Park in Ennis. Through continued engagement, the owners have really improved the appearance of the property.



Above left: Parnell Street before. Above right: Parnell Street after.

Derelict Sites	March 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	2	10	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	3	12	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	6	10	4
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	1	2	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	4	0
No of Vesting Orders signed	2	3	0

The table (right) provides a snapshot of the activity in March and the year to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2021.

Significantly in 2022 to date, four notices for the compulsory acquisition of derelict sites have been issued and published. The properties in question are:

- House at No 4 An Garrán, Mountshannon, Co. Clare (now at vesting stage)
- House at No. 3 St Senan’s Terrace, Kilrush, Co Clare
- House at Cloughleigh Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
- House at 111 Dun na hInse, Claureen, Ennis, County Clare.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Trading Online Voucher Scheme

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has continued to see strong interest. In March, six applications have been approved while four grants were drawn down.

Mentoring

LEO Clare continue to receive a strong requirement for all of our Mentoring Options including mentoring in Starting a Business, Finance, Digital Marketing, Export Development and Brexit. In March 16 mentoring applications have been assigned.

Training

Along with Local Enterprise Week in March, LEO Clare ran numerous other training courses which included the beginning of two six week programmes for Start Your Own Business and Bookkeeping and our LEAN Introductory Evening.

Torpey to represent Clare at National Enterprise Awards

A hurling manufacturing business from Sixmilebridge is this year's nominee of the Clare Enterprise Award for 2022. Sean Torpey will now represent Local Enterprise Office Clare at the 22nd National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House in Dublin on the 2nd June. 'Torpey' will now be competing against 30 other finalists from every local authority area for a share of the €35,000 winners prize fund as national judging gets underway in May. Categories this year include 'Best Export Business,' 'Best Start-Up' and 'Innovation,' in addition to eight regional awards. There are also two new National Enterprise Awards this year with a "One to Watch" award and a "Sustainability / Green" award.

Local Enterprise Week 2022

Local Enterprise Office Clare was delighted to deliver Local Enterprise Week 2022 (March 7th – 11th). Over 470 budding entrepreneurs and business owners in Clare took part in online events this week, marking Local Enterprise Week hailed as a "success" by Local Enterprise Office Clare.

An annual initiative from the 31 Local Enterprise Offices around the country, including Local Enterprise Office Clare conducted events which took place online under the theme of 'Making It Happen'.

Supported by Clare County Council and Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted eleven events for local businesses this week, in addition to ten Spotlight events which were open to businesses across the country.

Highlights from the week included Demystifying Digitalisation for SMEs, Video Marketing, Employer Talent Development Government Funding Supports and our own spotlight event, Boost Your Business Online: How to Stand Out from the crowd

Clare Students Making it Happen with Inspiring Enterprises across Co. Clare

After two years of virtual events, Local Enterprise Office Clare was delighted to host their annual Student Enterprise County Final at Treacy's West County Hotel on Wednesday March 9th and Thursday March 10th. The programme is a national programme run by Local Enterprise Offices, and is Ireland's largest student enterprise programme. This year the programme celebrates its 20th year.

Winner of County Clare Junior category for 2022 are BEA Scrubs of Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon. Winners for the County Clare Intermediate category for 2022 are Gorgeous Gifts St. Joseph's Secondary School Spanish Point and winners for the County Clare Senior category 2022 are Teen Stem Magazine, Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon. All teams will now represent County Clare for the next phase of the programme for 2022.

Showcase Ireland

LEO Clare supported three local enterprises (Creative Clay, Siar Landscape Photography and Wix and Wax Ireland) to participate in Showcase Ireland 2022, an international art, craft and design event in the RDS, Dublin. The event is attended by traders from across the globe. A Member of LEO Clare visited the stands



on along with stands of two other Clare based companies attending the event.

Local Enterprise Office Clare Podcast Series

LEO Clare are participating in an exciting new series of business-related podcasts in conjunction with Clare FM. Podcasts are originally played on Morning Focus every Friday between 9am-12pm and discusses some of the programmes and business clients we continue to work with and support every year.

The first series was on the theme of LEAN. The shows included interviews with a LEAN professional, Almir Business Limited and local business Seoidín, Thinking Toys and AiP Thermoform Packaging.

Our second theme in the series will relate to Green principles and our Green for Micro programme. All podcasts can be found on the website. www.localenterprise.ie/clare

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Upgrades of Roads and Footpaths

The footpath contractor for the Municipal District has substantially completed the works across the area, with our own crews continuing the ground preparation in advance of the 2022 roadworks programme.

Works were completed on the installation of a new footpath infrastructure in Parteen, Ardnacrusha and Aidan Park, Shannon.



Above left: Ardnacrusha. Above right: Parteen.

The 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) was formally adopted at the recent Municipal District meeting held on the 29th March, following a briefing from the Transportation Department. The Councillors were also briefed by the Housing Department on their work programme and the Environment Department, who outlined some of their initiatives within the District.

Town & Village Renewal (TVR)

A Section 38 notice was publicised for a new footpath and traffic calming measures on School Road / Kilquane Drive in Parteen as part of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the village.



This project, due to be delivered later this year, will provide a crucial link for pedestrians between Larkin's Cross, Parteen National School and the village centre while reducing speed on this busy road. The Team from the Municipal District are in discussions with local landowners regarding the project and tender preparation is underway.

Outdoor Infrastructure Fund

The tender has been completed and letters of intent issued for the Drumgeely 'Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme' project. The focus will be on the walkways and embankments to the rear of Drumgeely, which link up with the Free Zone.

Active Travel

The Active Travel programme is progressing in the District with the design completed for the new footpath in Meelick

and contact being made with the relevant landowners.

This week saw the arrival of our first Electric Bicycle under the Active Travel Programme – The MD received



the bike, through our Design Office, as part of the Eurovelo Programme with the aim to promote cycling, active lifestyles and our cycling routes which we are developing all the time. We will make use of the bike on short journeys around the town, promoting its use with all our staff and our colleagues in the Fire Service next door.

Other Initiatives

Grant Scheme: Each year the Councillors from Shannon Municipal District support a 'Small Community Grant Scheme'. The closing date for applications under the scheme is 5 pm on Friday, 22nd April 2022. This is an on-line process and the objective is to encourage and support community and voluntary organisations active in the cultural, artistic and community development of the Municipal District. Applicant organisations must be residing within or based within the Municipal District and applications must have a focus on Shannon Municipal District – Settlements within the district include Shannon Town, Newmarket on Fergus, Sixmilebridge, Bunratty, Cratloe, Meelick, Parteen, Ardnacrusha, Athlunkard and Clonlara. The application can be found at the following link: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/shannonmdcommunity/>

Town Hall: All hands were on deck at the Town Hall in Shannon this week as the team from the Environment Department, Gardening Section and our own team locally worked together to overhaul the green area to the front of our building to improve the entrance and appeal to our customers. A huge effort by all and greatly appreciated!



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

Clare County Council has received its road grant allocations for 2022. The overall allocation for Roads in the 2022 Roadworks Programme is €48.4million which comprises of Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Department of Transport and National Transport Authority grant allocations along with IPBMI and own resource allocations.

The Roadworks Programme for 2022 has been prepared as part of the SMDW for 2022 and has been adopted by all four Municipal District meetings in March.

Rollout of the 2022 programme of work can commence in the Municipal Districts in April.

Strategic Transportation

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) document was approved by the National Transport Authority (NTA) Board during the summer of 2020. The LSMATS public consultation, to which all Members were invited, was launched by the NTA on 2nd September, 2020 and was on public display for an 8 week period up to 30th October. There were over 112 submissions during the process which the NTA have considered. A presentation was made by the NTA to the Physical Development SPC in February 2021. The NTA are currently reviewing the draft LSMATS document.

Connecting Ireland

This project commenced in 2021 and is being led by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the project is to improve the public transport service provision in Clare by improving scheduling, dealing with gaps in the service and by introducing new public transport routes. Liaison and information sharing has commenced between the NTA and Clare County Council Municipal Districts and Road Design Section to support the NTA in a comprehensive rollout of the project. The local link from Kildysart to Kilrush has been rolled out during 2021 as part of this project by the NTA.

Active Travel Programme 2022

Funding for the Active Travel 2022 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on the 24th January 2022. The total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,298,000.

The following is brief overview of the status of ongoing projects:

- Construction works ongoing in Tulla and Quin
- Detailed design advanced for Spanish Point, Doolin and Lisdoonvarna
- Statutory processes being undertaken for Clarisford, Dromindoora & Kilmaley
- Preliminary analysis being carried out for Ennis Park & Stride and Ennis Public Lighting
- Concept designs being prepared for Tulla Road in Ennis, Ballycasey in Shannon, Miltown Malbay, Lissycasey and St. Flannans School in Inagh.

Public lighting

Cork County Council published the tender for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare and four other counties on 1st October, 2020. Following the successful conclusion of the procurement process a contractor has been appointed as the Design Build Works Contract for this regional project. At present 46% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

For the benefit of Councillors, the following are the options available to facilitate reporting of public lighting faults:

- Internet: Direct reporting on our website – <https://enerveo.com/report-a-fault/republic-of-ireland/>
- Phone: Enerveo (Formerly SEE Airtricity) dedicated call centre at 0818-372772
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority's website or contact number. <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight/>

Road Design Office

Current Projects: April 2022

It should be noted that this monthly project update is relevant only to the current period and the milestone progressions during that period.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TII Road Safety Projects

A progress meeting with the TII was held on the 19th January 2022.

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p>For the N85:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary and this is being progressed by the TII through their consultant. The TII are of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd junction should incorporate Active Travel Strategy and plan for the wider area. The RDO are reviewing the current designs to incorporate these elements. <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.
TII HD 17 Sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 & N67/L1016 now completed, conceptual designs for N67/L50222 and N67/L50221 are completed and Feasibility Reports are being developed. Conceptual designs progressing for N67/L1022 and N67/1016. Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. A comprehensive traffic and pedestrian survey was undertaken in early August, a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been initiated and a preliminary design report is being prepared for submission to TII. The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility has been developed. A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for this junction has being included with Minister Place.

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2022

- An application for 2022 LCS Schemes was submitted to the Department of Transport in October 2021. The Department of Transport has allocated a total of €529,000 for safety improvement works on regional and local roads for 2022. The design process for these schemes has commenced.

Other Projects 2022

Project	Progress Update
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed. All the signage has now been installed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works for 2021 are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	Works on the last remaining bus shelter at Newmarket commenced on Monday 28/02/22.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.
Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations.
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2022. Collaboration with IT & GIS has also commenced to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The Department of Transport has allocated €70,000 for 2022 as a Specific Improvement Grant to complete the works commenced in 2021.

Bridge Rehabilitation

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €602,000.

- AA Screening: Currently Preparing Tender Documents for 2022 Bridge Projects. Tenders returned Consultant appointed.
- Bolooghra Bridge: Initial survey complete, Tender documents for consultancy issued and returned, currently being assessed. Consultant appointed. Contractor appointed. NIS completed, environmental issues to be resolved prior to commencing works. NIS sent to Development Applications Unit at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for comment.
- Killestry Bridge: Contractor on site, works 90% complete. Snagging ongoing.
- Scariff Bridge: Contractor appointment ongoing. Contractor commenced on site.



Health and Safety

The Clare County Council Annual Safety Report 2021 was published in February 2022 outlining the Health & Safety Performance of the organisation in 2021. Top Level H&S Objectives and an Internal H&S Audit and Inspection Plan for 2022 were approved by the Safety Management Committee in order to ensure continuous improvements in Occupational Health & Safety Performance.

The Health & Safety Team have commenced their schedule of Annual Safety Statement and Risk Assessment Reviews with updates to the Occupational Health & Safety Management System communicated in March 2022.

General Design Office

Shannon Heritage Technical Due Diligence Tender



Following an Invitation to Tender, which was published on the Official Journal of the European Union eTenders website, one expression of interest was received on the 14th March,

2022. This Tender submission is under review with the hope of appointing the Consultants by early April 2022.

Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Facilities at Kilkee & Ballycuggaran, Killaloe



Section 177AE Applications for Approval have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the exemplar designed WC, Shower & Changing Room facilities proposed for Kilkee and Ballycuggaran.

Ballyallia Lake Enhancement Amenity

Works are at the design stage with ongoing informal stakeholder (user groups) consultations being completed. We are awaiting to meet with the NPWS for their input. A public consultation is being planned once the design has been completed.

Quin Road Campus File Store Shelving/Racking and Lift Installation Tender



Clare County Council requires the installation of a file store shelving/racking system to be installed within the new Records Management Store located within the Quin Road Campus building. Following an Invitation to Tender, which was published on the eTenders website, two expressions of interest were received on the 4th March, 2022. It is expected to appoint the successful Contractor by early April 2022.

Block 2, Ballymaley Business Park, Ennis

The change of use and refurbishment of Block 2, Ballymaley Business Park is awaiting the outcome of the Part VIII process.

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Corofin Town & Village Renewal Scheme - topographical survey finalised and on file. Preliminary design investigations ongoing.

Parteen Town & Village Renewal Scheme - topographical survey concluded, preliminary design proposals, options

and cost estimates approved, proposed publishing on e-tenders April 2022.

Surveys

Continual surveys on Killaloe Bypass project, as per request from Capital Projects - CPO and boundary lines set out/checked.

Mapping/Drawing

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass - ongoing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The main updates relating to major projects during the month of March are as follows.

Clounahinchy Flood Relief Scheme

A constructive meeting was held during the month with some of the affected landowners and their representative where it was pointed out that until all the Landowner Consent forms to the embankment being constructed on their land, the project cannot proceed. Clare County Council would like to thank those that have already returned same but we are still awaiting the return of a number of other signed land agreements.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

The scheme itself is finished with just work continuing now in consultation with the OPW and our consulting engineers regarding the updating of the Flood Maps which will highlight the benefiting areas protected by the scheme. It is hoped to have these completed in the coming weeks. The related Riverside Walk and Cycleway funded with the assistance of the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) is now open to the public and proving very popular with walkers and cyclists alike. Numbers using the facility are steadily increasing as the word spreads and the weather improves. There are still a number of additional measures that need to be completed including information and educational signage detailing the biodiversity and heritage significance of the area, seating, bike rails and road markings. These are being procured as we speak.

Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)

We are still awaiting the An Bord Pleanála decision regarding confirmation or otherwise, of the CPO following the Oral Hearing in June 2021. A decision from An Bord Pleanála is hoped for at the earliest juncture and this will inform our next course of action in relation to the overall project.

Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

The project involving the restoration of a section of the original pathway has commenced, with essential tree and brush clearance works completed in advance of bird nesting season. The contractor will return to site in coming weeks to resurface the pathway with compacted limestone. These improvement works will ensure that this amenity is preserved and enhanced for a multitude of users, both from the local community and the student population. Members will be aware of the wider proposal for a Greenway/Blueway from Limerick City to Scarriff and we are working closely with Waterways Ireland in this regard. This project will require more extensive environmental assessment as part of that project development. TII has allocated funding in the 2022 budget which will enable this project to be progressed through the initial stages of development. The works as proposed will be completed as an interim measure in advance of the larger project.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Following the appointment of John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd. as the Main Works Contractor, we held the pre-start meeting at the Council offices on the 9th of March 2022. Given the scale of this project, significant pre-planning with regards procurement of materials, labour, plant and specialist sub-contractor packages is required, following which, we expect to receive a detailed construction programme from the Contractor in the coming weeks. This will set out the in greater detail how the works progress on site which we will share with affected landowners and the local community when to hand. In relation to the site supervisory staff required, the Letter of Acceptance and Chief Executives order formally appointing RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd as consultant to provide Site Supervisory roles/ Resident Engineering Staff is being prepared and will issue shortly. Other works ongoing include:

- The electricity diversion works have now been completed. There will be some further “tie in” works required during the main contract period.
- The results are still awaited (delay in testing due to

Covid-19 pandemic) from the detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works carried out on site in 2021. Following the provision of these results to Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd, the final reports can be prepared, and the public presentation organised which is expected to take place later in 2022.

- The few remaining Land Acquisitions are currently being progressed by agreement by Clare County Council and its agents.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

All boreholes and dynamic probes have been completed as part of the original site investigation contract. The contractor is nearing completion of the additional slit trenches around the Well Road area and should have all site works complete by early April. Further works have been carried out on both the Victoria Stream and Atlantic Stream Options Development. Clare County Council and OPW carried out a recent site visit to examine these options on the ground. A number of observations were made during that visit which have now been submitted to the consultant for their consideration and refinement of the various options. CCC and OPW have reviewed both the Hydrology and Hydraulics reports and returned comments on both. The consultant is currently reviewing the latest CCTV survey reports that were carried out around Well Road and are developing the available options for dealing with surface water in this low-lying area. The initial nesting bird survey has been carried out with additional surveys planned in the weeks ahead. Progress on the scheme and upcoming works is available on the project website at www.kilkeefrs.ie alongside associated scheme literature and the project information video.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

This matter is still before the Courts with a Hearing date set of mid July 2022. If favourable, we will be able to move forward with this important project to include further Surveys, Geotechnical Investigations, Detailed design and engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

Landowner negotiations continue and until resolved the scheme cannot progress any further. A meeting took place in late March with one of the main landowners affected and his Agents with a view to obtaining agreement to move forward at the earliest juncture. Given the delay involved and compounded by the significant inflationary increases in the Construction industry generally, it is most likely that we will have to retender the works once agreed.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

The Options Selection Report has now been finalised and

presents the Preferred Option to be taken forward to the next stages of the scheme development. Details of same are available on the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie The Project Consultants, FTC have now assessed the information requirements in order to advance the design in this phase. The following survey documents, Topographical, Archaeological, Traffic & Transport, etc. are being prepared ahead of the competitive procurement process via eTenders. The Traffic & Transport survey tender will be issued in the coming days which will result in detailed analysis of traffic at the existing junctions to Shannon Free Zone and the access road to the Airport.

Priority Geotechnical Ltd are scheduled to return to site in early April to complete the remainder of the ground investigations which will see completion of the final trial pitting, probing and drilling works. Following which, the laboratory testing and analysis of the excavated material can be completed over the summer months. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process and will see the preferred option being developed technically and environmentally, to identify and mitigate Scheme impacts, to progress further development of the scheme design including the layout and junction arrangements, to establish land-take requirements and to progress the scheme through to the Statutory Processes. Phase 3 is expected to take up to mid-2023 to complete. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannon-access.ie

N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme

Funding of €100,000 has been allocated by the TII in their 2022 Budget to advance this project. Data Gathering from previous work done on this project is ongoing which will inform the Project Brief and the scope of the works with the intention of going out to Tender in April/May followed by the appointment of the successful Tenderer in late June/July after which, we will be better placed to engage with affected landowners and the Kilnamona Development Association who have made a number of representations on this matter.

Piers and Harbours

Clare County Council have submitted 10 no. applications for the 'Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme'. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are reviewing our applications and we await the outcome of same which we expect to be favourable.

Public Realm Regeneration project (Ennis)

The first stage of the main contract tender process has been completed with notifications being issued to successful and unsuccessful contractors. Tender documents will be issued to the 5 no. shortlisted contractors in April, following completion of detailed design and the Bill of Quantities. A Public Information Evening is scheduled for Thursday March 31st and

will give opportunity for stakeholders including business owners, members of the public and interested parties to meet with the Design team, Clare County Council, and Irish Water to review and discuss the preliminary construction phasing plan. More importantly, specific individual needs can be recorded which will be considered by the Design Team and if required, included for within the tender instructions to Contractors. Related to same, a briefing to the Ennis MD Councillors was held in late March in advance of this Public Information evening.

In order to de-risk the main scheme works, an advance works contract involving a Water Mains upgrade by Irish Water and a Medium Voltage cable upgrade by the ESB will commence in early May subject to the necessary Road Closures being approved. These works will take approximately 3 months to complete following which the Public Realm works will commence thereafter. Regrettably, there will be disturbance experienced during the course of these works, but this is unavoidable, and every effort will be made to minimise it as much as possible. We will engage with Elected Members and affected Business owners/Residents as the work progresses to keep everyone informed of developments.

Remediation of sites containing ACM

It is expected that we will be in a position to appoint the Technical advisors in the coming weeks. In the meantime, as always, the sites will continue to be monitored by Council staff having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

A number of meetings have been held with the RPS modellers throughout March with a view to completing the validation and calibration of the model data by mid-April. Following a review of the overtopping/breach analysis proposal as presented by RPS, the methodology for this activity is progressing. This task will run concurrently with the calibration process following which, both will feed into the coastal-fluvial joint probability scenario analysis. An updated note on the slope stability analysis is expected from RPS Geotechnical in early April. Maintenance works to the SAA eastern embankments are nearing completion. It is expected that works will commence on the western embankments in the coming weeks with an anticipated late summer completion date, weather dependant. A further coordination meeting with the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Project Team is planned for mid-April. Further information on the scheme is available on the project website at www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com

Springfield, Clonlara FRS

As the weather improves a return to site is expected after the Easter Break subject to ground conditions being suitable. Minerix are continuing their work on the Geophysical survey and are now almost completed. The rise in Covid cases

impacted on their programme. Groundwater monitoring is continuing to be carried out in tandem by Priority Geotechnical Ltd. Environmental monitoring is also being carried out at this time to comply with our obligations and protect the habitat. The ESB have ceased releasing additional volumes of water at the Parteen Weir down the old route of the River Shannon and therefore, volumes have returned to the normal minimum volume of 10m³/sec.

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)

Clare County Council are progressing the project in accordance with the 'Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways' which sets out the process for landowner engagement. As recommended by the Code, an independent agronomist must be appointed to engage with landowners prior to the route options public consultation. Having consulted with the 3 main farming representative bodies that are party to the agreement, namely the IFA, the ICMSA and the ICOSA, Clare County Council is now in the process of engaging the independent agronomist, with a view to progressing to the route options public consultation over the summer months. In tandem with this process, supplementary ecological surveys are being carried out, which will strengthen the justification for the project at planning application stage.

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)

Following a recent meeting between Clare County Council and TII, we now have approval to appoint the successful Consultant for Section 2 of the West Clare Railway Greenway (Ennis to Ennistymon). Thereafter, Public Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the 'Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways'. Any comments or suggestions from members of the public are welcome and can be emailed to pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie.

White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works

The Preliminary Design and Options Selection Report is now complete. Clare County Council have requested a meeting with the OPW to discuss and hopefully obtain approval to progress the project at the earliest juncture.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during March:

- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training
- Breathing Apparatus Refreshers Course held in Bray
- Winch Operator Training held in Ennis, Shannon, Killaloe, Kilrush & Kilkee Fire Stations
- Banksman Training was held in Kilkee Fire Station.

Recruitment of Retained Fire Service Personnel

The recruitment of personnel is an ongoing process with a number of recruitment drives each year. Interviews have recently taken place and panels have been formed for Shannon, Ennistymon and Scarriff Fire Brigades.

Ennis St. Patrick's Day Parade

Fire Service personnel participated in a number of St. Patrick's Day Parades throughout the County.



Mobilisation Data Screens

Mobilisation data screens have been installed in all seven Fire Stations. The screens show the call details including address of incident to the attending fire fighters. This project was completed with the aid of Capital Grant Aid Funding.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	February 2022	March 2022 (Up to 25.03.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	100	67	251
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	9	2	19
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	8	6	21
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	6	1	12
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	6	5	15
Number of Commencement Notices Received	34	37	98
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	3	4

Note: In the March Monthly Report, the Feb figures related to 1st to 18th February due to timing of report)

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- County Clare Hunt Charity Ride in aid of Clare Suicide Bereavement Support Group, Quin.
- Teenage Disco held in the Queens Hotel, Ennis as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Board with their blood donation clinics in Ennis.
- Members travelled to Dublin in order to have some of the Clare Civil Defence vehicle fleet updated with new decals.
- Members participated in the New York, Ennis, Shannon and Sixmilebridge St. Patrick's Day Parades.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Members of the Boat Crew carried out training on the River Fergus.
- Recruits Introductory Training Course
- Evening Search Exercise held on the River Fergus

Clare Civil Defence New York 2022

Fifteen members of Clare Civil Defence, accompanied by the Civil Defence Officer and the Chief Fire Officer travelled to New York to participate in the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. The group travelled at the invitation of the County Clare Patriotic, Benevolent & Social Association of New York City and marched under the banner of the association in the New York Parade. Several other functions were attended by members of Clare Civil Defence, including a reception hosted by the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Councillor PJ Ryan.

Members visited the Yonkers Fire Department and this visit resulted in an invitation to march alongside the Department

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

in the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade held on Saturday, 19th March. The Civil Defence members were extended the warmest and friendliest of receptions wherever they were hosted and a

most memorable trip was enjoyed by all. Sincere appreciation is due to all who made this trip possible including Mr Pat Dowling, Chief Executive and Clare County Council.



Departing Shannon Airport.



Clare Civil Defence 2022 New York St Patricks Day Parade.



Members at Twin Towers Memorial.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

National Tree Week 2022

To celebrate National Tree Week our Gardening Team distributed 750 saplings between 22 community voluntary groups across Co. Clare. The saplings were supplied by both the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte. This year groups received a mix of Red Oak, Pedunculate Oak, Beech, Common Birch, Silver Birch, Hazel, Rowan, Scots Pine and Sycamore.

National Spring Clean 2022

This year, to date, 129 groups have registered for the National Spring Clean in Clare. Groups have been advised that they can avail of free passes to our Waste Transfer facilities. Since January 2022, 37 free passes have been issued to community groups.

Environmental Campaigns

During March, we promoted several environmental messages including National Tree Week 2022, Leave No Trace, "World Water Day" Local Authority Water Programme event, RepairMyStuff.ie, Stop Food Waste.

Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific team to date in 2022:

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	March	2022 to date
Planning applications (Domestic)	60	118
Planning applications (Large Developments)	1	2
Planning applications (Forestry)	25	38
Planning applications (Agriculture)	4	8
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	3	7
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	26	30
Pollution complaints received	4	24
Warning & advisory letters issued	2	4
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0

Gardening

Covid-19 Memorial Tree

A Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection commemorating those who died and those bereaved during the Covid-19 pandemic was held in Ennis on Sunday 20th February. A mature Irish Oak tree was planted along with varieties of perennial flowers to compliment the commemoration plaque.



Landscaping Project

Gardening works have been completed outside the Shannon MD offices. In line with the Gardening Sections new planting theme, various grasses and pollinator friendly flowers were planted along with areas of bark mulch and decorative stone.



Waste Management

Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

The soil protection layer has been completed, the integrated wetland has been constructed and is currently being top-soiled. Planting of the wetland cells will begin in late March. Monitoring of all watercourses in the vicinity of the works is being undertaken on a twice weekly basis.



Annual Environmental Reports (AERs)

The AER's for the three Environment Protection Agency (EPA) licenced sites of Inagh, Doora and Lisdeen have been completed and submitted to the EPA for assessment.

Bottle Banks

Following the reinstatement of the skip type site at the Kilrush Bottle Bank, an additional collection is now being provided every week to ensure maximum capacity is available for the public.

Waste Enforcement

Legal Proceedings

Clare County Council have initiated a number of legal proceedings against landowners for the holding and disposal of waste in a manner likely to cause environmental pollution. One such case is due in court in the next week (relating to significant quantities of end-of-life-vehicles).

Compliance Scheme ELVES (End-of-Life Vehicles Environmental Services)

Legal proceedings have been initiated against the suspected importers of Specified Vehicles throughout Co. Clare. This case was listed for mention in Ennis District Court in March. Of the 10 importers being prosecuted, one has joined the compliance scheme, ELVES therefore this case was struck out. A further 7 defendants are in the process of registering with ELVES and were represented in court recently. Their hearings were adjourned pending completion of the registration process. A further 2 defendants have not registered/were not represented in court. Further contact will be made by Clare County Council's solicitors with these 2 importers in advance of the next court date to seek meaningful engagement with the statutory process.

Staff Update

Due to recent staff changes, we have taken the opportunity to move some of our Community Wardens. Ciara Daffy is the new Warden for the Shannon MD area, Norah Murphy is now the Warden for West Clare MD and Conor Leyden is the Warden for Ennis MD while Pat Meaney remains the Warden for the Killaloe MD.

Inspections of Waste Facility Permitted (WFP) and Certificate of Authorisation (COR) Sites

Targeted inspections of WFP and COR sites are ongoing in March, including a joint inspection with Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) at a site identified by the EPA as a priority site. On a positive note, this inspection found the site to comply with the Waste Management (Facility Permit & Registration) Regulations 2007, as Amended.



Liaising with Secondary Schools

The Waste Enforcement Team liaised with the Environmental Awareness Officer in carrying out talks/facilitating clean-ups in Secondary Schools. A great effort by all involved and special mention to Spanish Point Secondary schools pictured.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team responded to 114 complaints (7% less than last month) relating to litter and waste in March. These are currently being investigated and closed out.

A total of 3 litter fines were issued in March to date, as a result of evidence found in waste. The environment Section has issued 1 Section 14 Notice under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental inspections RMCEI

Clare County Council have submitted our 2021 statistical returns to the EPA. This will be assessed by the EPA and discussions will be held between the Environment Section and the EPA in the coming months to discuss the data in detail. This will assist the Council in focusing inspections to target all forms of environmental pollution.

WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Section of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement and the 2022 Annual Service Plan with Irish Water. All protocols and working procedures relating to Covid 19 are being adhered to in the delivery of the service. The current expenditure is within 1% of the approved budget.

Water Services Operations

Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity / work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 18th February 2022 up to and including 24th March 2022. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 12 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Emergency Work Order was received during the timeframe
- 287 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received
- 155 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 16 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 15 were for unplanned burst watermains, mains repair, leak repair and ESB power outage and 1 Communications notification for water supply flushing.

Water Operations

In the **Mid Clare Area**, outages occurred at the following locations;

- Hermitage – Burst Watermain
- Lifford Road Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Quin Road Industrial Estate Ennis – Burst Watermain
- College Road – Burst Watermain & Valve Install
- Clarecastle Village – Burst Watermain
- Kevin Barry Avenue – Burst Watermain
- Barefield– Burst Watermain
- Crusheen – Burst Watermain
- Roslevan, Tulla Road – Meter Install

In West Clare Area.

The following outages occurred:

- Watermain burst repairs at Bansha, Spanish Point, Lisdeen, Labasheeda, Ennistymon, Alva, Kilshanny, Doonmore and Turlough
- Unplanned storm-related electrical fault power outages at Ennistymon RWS at Lisdoonvarna-Corkscrew-Ballyvaghan, and at Rockmount PS, Milltown Malbay.

A number of outages occurred in the **East Clare Area** as follows:

- 11-02-22 Burst Watermain (Clonlara line) Blackwater Ardnacrusha
- 11-02-22 Burst Watermain Kilkishen
- 14-02-22 Burst Watermain Blackwater Bridge Ardnacrusha
- 15-02-22 Burst Watermain Rossmadda Ardnacrusha
- 22-02-22 and 23-02-22 Barnhill Reservoir Cleaning
- 24-02-22 Scarriff Leak on Raw watermain
- 28-03-22 Whitegate leaks
- 01-03-22 Drumcharley Burst
- 08-03-22 Burst Watermain Between Larkins Cross and O Connors Cross (150mm)
- 14-03-22 Leak Mountshannon

Water Conservation

- Leak Detection Works – East Clare – Shannon/Cratloe/ Kilkishen
- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare – Sandfield & Clarecastle
- Leak Detection Works – West Clare – Kilmihil DMA/ Burren Hill DMA
- Leak Detection Works – North Clare – Acoustic Logger Installation – Kilfenora DMA & Kilshanny DMA
- Fix Operation – Various locations – Kilkee/Doonbeg/ Mullagh Milltown
- Larsens – Find crew – Tulla Road DMA

Wastewater Operations

The sprinkler distribution system over the Trickling Filter (TF) at Kilmihil WWTP was replaced in February. A TF consists of a permeable medium made of crushed rock over which wastewater is distributed. The wastewater trickles through the rock degrading and removing the organic matter in the process.



Irish Water Capital programme

Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant

The new scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant near Skagh Point, a new rising main, additional storm storage and upgrade of the existing Francis St pumping station. Construction works are ongoing at the site of the new WWTP. Sheet piling for the primary settlement tank excavation is in place and excavation is ongoing. Works at the Frances Street pump station site have commenced with topsoil removal and preparation for moving the overhead ESB line. Completion of the scheme is due in mid-2023.

When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near Skagh Point.



Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme

This scheme consists of a new pumping facility at Quay Road and new rising main from Quay Road to connect to the Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant inlet. The pipeline from Quay Road to a point just north of the Church was constructed in an advance contract in February 2021.

Irish Water has appointed Shareridge as the design/build Contractor and they have commenced the design and procurement elements of the Contract. Construction works are anticipated to start on site in May and the project is programmed to be completed within 9 months. Temporary traffic management will be required at various times on Quay Road and on the R458 northwards to the Killadysert Road junction area.

When the project is complete and connection has been made to Clareabbey WWTP this project will end the discharge of raw sewage to the Fergus at the Quay in Clarecastle.

Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannor wastewater treatment plant and the new pumping station is on-going. The scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing outfall. At the wastewater treatment plant site the storm tank, sludge tank, primary settlement tanks, and inlet tank have been constructed. Installation of mechanical elements is underway. Manholes and pipelines have been constructed in the vicinity of the existing outfall. To facilitate the remaining pipeline works a temporary road closure is still in place along New Houses Road. At the pump station site the effluent pipework and manholes have been constructed.

Completion of the scheme is due in early 2023. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the pier in Liscannor.



Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Site investigation works have taken place to determine ground conditions. A pre planning meeting was held in early February. Irish Water has written to the landowner to introduce the project. A briefing was held for elected representatives on the 14th of March. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in late 2023 with completion in mid 2025.

Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. The site investigation crew remobilised in early March to continue with boreholes, trial pits and sampling. Irish Water has written to the landowners to introduce the project and introduce their land Valuer. A pre planning meeting was held on 10th of March. A briefing was held for elected representatives on the 14th of March. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall at Intrinsic Bay. Liaison with the Consultants on the Kilkee flood defence scheme is ongoing so as to identify any conflicts between the two schemes at an early stage and plan accordingly. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by Q3 of 2024 with completion in late 2025. When the new wastewater treatment scheme is in place, the existing Victoria Pump Station can continue to pump the Victoria stream via the existing rising mains during the bathing season.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The draft Feasibility Study Report investigates various options including locations for a new plant in each town or a new combined plant which would serve both towns. Costings have been revised. Following on from Workshop 2 held on the 3rd of March the Feasibility Study Report and site selection report are being finalised by the Consultants working for Irish Water.

Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped 400mm diameter rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. An upgrade of the WWTP is required. The draft layout drawings of the proposed upgrade are nearing completion. When the upgrade layout is agreed by Irish Water a pre planning meeting will be scheduled. The NIS is being prepared. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged during Q2 2022.

Following planning approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Construction of tanks is ongoing at the WWTP. Preparatory works have commenced at the new percolation area adjacent to the Ennistymon Road. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.



Remedial Action Lists Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

Ward and Burke Construction Ltd have been appointed by Irish Water to undertake the Clare Remedial Action List (RAL) Upgrade contract. The project includes for the upgrade of three plants currently on the Environmental Protection Agencies remedial action list.

- 1. New Doolough Water Treatment Plant** – This plant is the regional treated water source for West Clare covering the large geographical area in the county and the third largest plant by volume produced. The project will modernise the treatment technology at the plant which will allow it to achieve the desired quality of output during events which cause high turbidity at the source. Works are underway at the plant, with upgrades to the existing filters being carried out. The intended completion date is June 2022.
- 2. Corofin Water Treatment Plant** – this plant provides water to the town of Corofin. The project will modernise the treatment processes on site which will enable production of water to the desired standard during high turbidity events in the source lake. Works are currently underway with the new filters in place and the building roof now reconstructed. Completion is expected by June 2022.
- 3. Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant** – this plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan. The project will modernise the treatment processes at the plant as well as bringing the

plant production capacity to the required level. Design work is ongoing and it is expected that construction will commence in May 2022.

Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. Preparatory site clearance works and site investigation have been carried out. The final design has been submitted for assessment and the anticipated completion is Q3 2022.

Rehabilitation of Watermains

The following watermain rehabilitation projects are currently programmed:

- 1. Athlunkard Bridge to Larkins Cross, Athlunkard** - replacement of 1,034m of 375/300mm trunk main with a 450mm diameter main is underway.
- 2. Tullabrack to Gower, Kilrush** – replacement of 1847m of substandard 150mm main with 180mm diameter main is now complete.
- 3. Shannon Town**, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór -at design stage
- 4. Lifford Road, Ennis** – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage

Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & Storm Tank Upgrade Works

Work at this location includes the construction of a new inlet works and screens, and a new storm tank. The inlet works will provide improved screening of materials coming into the plant to both protect and optimise the downstream treatment process to improve discharge standards. The stormwater tank will allow capture of flow during rainfall events for later treatment through the plant. The work will also involve the construction of a new ESB substation. The contractor has moved onto site and works have commenced. The estimated completion is in Q1 2023.

Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

A project has commenced to examine the two wastewater treatment plants serving Ennis to ensure adequate capacity is available to cater for the future growth and development. A flow study is currently underway which will be compared to the desktop assessment of current population equivalent being treated by the plants. The output of this stage of the project is a feasibility study report which will inform the decision on the most appropriate option to develop capacity in the plants.

Ennis Drainage Area Plan

This project involves the gathering of all available data on the

wastewater network in Ennis and surveying and monitoring of flows in the network. This information will be used to build a hydraulic model of the network. The hydraulic model can be used to model future growth in the town and accurately identify where upsizing of pipework/pumping infrastructure might be required. It will also be used to identify where groundwater is infiltrating into the network adding unnecessary additional loading. It will allow Irish Water to have confidence in obtaining the best outcome for euro spent on network improvement. The project is at tender assessment stage with study works commencing in 2022.

Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 378 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 58 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 320 assets, 208 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 112 assets remaining to be transferred are divided into the following four categories:

- **Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (13 assets)** – These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed. At present there are 21 assets under further query and 7 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.
- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (48 assets)** – This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities- 13 assets are with the NSPO for agreement for transfer or to ascertain or if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved Irish Water will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval.
- **Property Registration Authority Ireland (0 assets)** – At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- **Outstanding assets to be reported on (51 assets)** – These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to submit to Irish Water for their consideration on the best approach to proceed with. Irish Water are now advocating that property in long term operational possession but not in the Council name be obtained by the adverse possession process. Circular L1 2022 has confirmed department support for this approach. All assets which have not yet transferred will be examined to see if they can be progressed using this method.

Rural Water Programme

Works approved under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme continue with the Mains Rehab of the Dough GWS (Spanish Point) coming to completion. This project entailed the full replacement of 1.4km of mains including installation of meters and service fixtures and fittings to serve 25no connections. Works are due to commence on the replacement of service fittings and fixtures on the Leitrim Shyan GWS whilst the replacement of 4km of the Ballycar GWS is due to go to tender in the coming weeks with trial holes to be completed next week. The aforementioned works are all completed under Measure 5 of the MARWP with 100% funding allocation and subsequent transfer to the public network.

Under Measure 3 of the Programme emergency works were recently completed with the replacement of existing pumps serving the Ballincarra Cluster GWS.

Although we are now heading into April we still await the invitation for bids under the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Engagement continues with GWS's wishing to progress works under the upcoming programme.

No scheme transferred to the public water network in March with 3no schemes currently with Irish Water awaiting approval for Taking in Charge – Roo East GWS (Ardnacrusha), Cloughaun Ballynahown GWS (Lisdoonvarna) and Ballinruane GWS (Whitegate).

18 no applications have been received to date in 2022 under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply'. The Rural Water Team continues to work with group water schemes to ensure their members have a robust and sustainable quality and quantity supply of water available to them.

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Ennis St Patrick's Day Parade – 'Coming Together'

After three years, the traditional St Patrick's Day Parade returned to Ennis with the largest crowds in a long time lining the streets. Pre-parade entertainment was provided by Comhaltas and Ennis Gospel Choir who warmed up eager spectators at Steele's Terrace and Bank Place. MC Colum McGrath connected very well with the crowd and participants, resulting in a great atmosphere. The parade route began on New Road, over Clubbridge, Abbey St, Bank Place and down Bindon St. Mayor of Ennis, Cllr Ann Norton, led the parade and was accompanied on a horse drawn carriage by three Grand Marshalls who represented frontline workers, Nurse Mhairi Barron, Dr Bruce O'Donnell and Julia Fitzgibbon Hayes, a family support worker. Circa 40 groups/organisations actively participated on the day, from musical/drama groups to sporting organisations offering the complete spectrum of entertainment. The following prizes were awarded:

- **Best visual spectacle (€300)** – Clare Classic & Vintage Club
- **Best musical entrant (€300)** – Ennis Brass Band
- **Best interpretation of theme (€300)** – Ennis National School
- **Overall winner (€500)** – Clarecastle Show Society.

It was a successful interagency endeavour with great support provided to Ennis Municipal District by Clare Civil Defence, An Garda Síochána and Fire Services in addition to the strong team of staff who volunteered on the day. Some images from the day are featured.





Daniel O'Connell Monument

The new lightning protection system has been installed as part of the refurbishment works. The system involves the fixing of a dual conductor system (PVC coated aluminium) from a single air terminal at the head of the monument to two, separate, independent earth rods, installed on the north side of the structure.

This installation (dual conductor) provides for the conductivity testing of the installation, from ground level, reducing the need to climb the structure to check the "Lightning Protection" in the future.

Ceremony of Remembrance & Reflection

Clare County Council recently hosted a Ceremony of Remembrance & Reflection for those who have been bereaved and those who passed away during the Covid-19 pandemic. The physical preparation for the ceremony and remembrance area was constructed by the outdoor staff of the Ennis MD.

